sioner within the last 2 years of his service.

For administrative reasons, however, and officer can be transferred at any time to any place in India. On compassionate grounds and/or in public interest an officer may be allowed to continue at the same station beyond the prescribed periods.

14 Assistant Commissioners and 8 ITOs (Group-A) were due for transfer from Delhi on stay basis. Out of these transfers were ordered only in 7 cases of Asstt. Commissioners and 2 ITOs (Group-A). 4 Assistant Commissioners have already been relieved and in remaining cases of the requests of officers for further retention are under consideration.

Use of gas by the army in their Golden Temple operation

1497. DR. MAHABIR PRASAD:
SHRI SUSHIL CHAND MOHUNTA:
DR. BAPU KALDATE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the army used gas in their operation in Golden Temple to flush out the extremists; and

(b) if so, what were the reasons for taking this measure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) Security used a non-lethal gas, similar to teargas used by the police for riot control in the Northern Wing of Parikarma of the Golden Temple and in the general area of Akal Takhat to flush out terrorists.

(b) The gas was used to minimise loss of life and damage to the buildings.

Army deserters

1498. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of soldiers who deserted the Army during the last three years, year-wise; and

(b) what steps have been taken by Government to contain unrest in army?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) The information is of a classified nature and cannot be divulged in public interest.

(b) There has been no unrest as such in the Army. However, facts of indiscipline which occurred in the resent past in few of the units due to false propaganda were immediately brought under control. Steps are being taken to prevent recurrence of such cases of indiscipline.

Exports of Engineering Goods

1499. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a computerised engineering data system to promote exports of engineering goods; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and how it would help promote export of these goods to different countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR):

(a) and (b) The Government is considering a proposals to computerise data pertaining to various imports and exports with a view to evolving strategies for more effective management of international trade and, in this context, it is considering ways and means to meet the requirements of the engineering sector on a priority basis.

Setting up of a small group consisting of representatives of trade and industry for boosting trade

1500. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to set up a small group consisting of representatives of trade and industry to continuously interact with Government officials on trade policy;

(b) if so, what is its precise constitution and functions; and